

President Commences His Campaign For National Defence

United States Has No Aggressive Policy, He Declared Before Manhattan Club Thursday Night, But Must be Ready for Self-Protection.

New York, Nov. 5.—President Wilson opened the administration campaign for its national defense program in a comprehensive and carefully prepared address delivered here last night at the Manhattan Club banquet. He declared solemnly that the United States had no aggressive purposes, but must be prepared to defend itself in order to assume "full liberty and self development." Significantly, he said that "with ourselves in this great matter we associate all the peoples of our own hemisphere," adding that "we wish not only for the United States but for them the fullest freedom of independent growth and action."

HEARERS ENTHUSED.

The President was received with enthusiastic applause as he entered the banquet hall and during his address. The hall was decorated with American flags and filled even to the galleries with Democrats happy over their victory on Tuesday in New York city. When the President arose to speak every one got up and applauded until he was forced to signal for quiet.

"Within a year," said the President, "we have witnessed what we did not think possible, a great European conflict involving many of the greatest nations of the world. The influences of the great war are everywhere in the air. All Europe is in battle. Force everywhere speaks out and from one end of our own country to the other men are asking one another what our own force is, how far we are prepared to maintain ourselves against any interference with our national action or development."

The President called upon "men of all shades of political opinion" to rally to the support of the program. He said it represented "the best professional and expert opinion of the country" and gave warning that "if men differ with me in this vital matter I shall ask them to make it clear how far and in what way they are interested in making the permanent interests of the country safe against disturbances."

There is no need for the country to feel panic stricken the President declared, because it stands in friendly relations with the world. He spoke of the United States as a "nation too big and generous to be exacting, but yet courageous enough to defend its rights."

Outlining the defense program, the President said it included an increase in the standing army, the training within the next three years of 400,000 citizen soldiers to be raised in annual forces of 133,000, and the strengthening of the national guard. He laid particular emphasis on the need of ample equipment.

A GREATER NAVY.

The President declared that the navy already is "a very great and efficient force, but that in order to bring to a point of 'extraordinary force and efficiency' a definite policy must be adopted."

Just before the dinner the President shook hands with all the guests, including Charles F. Murphy.

"Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen: I warmly felicitate the club upon the completion of 50 years of successful and interesting life. Club life may be made to mean a great deal to those who know how to use it. I have no doubt that to a great many of you has come genuine stimulation in the association of this place and that as the years have multiplied you have seen more and more the useful ends which may be served by organizations of this sort."

"But I have not come to speak wholly of that, for there are others of your own members who can speak of the club with a knowledge and an intelligence which no one can have who has not been intimately associated with it. Men band themselves together for the sake of the association no doubt, but also for something greater and deeper than that—because they are conscious of common interests lying outside their business occupations, because they are members of the same community and in frequent intercourse find mutual stimulation and a real maximum of vitality and power. I shall assume that here around the dinner table on this memorable occasion our talk should properly turn to the wide and common interests which are most in our thoughts, whether they be the interests of the community or of the nation."

"A year and a half ago our thought would have been almost al-

together of great domestic questions. They are many and of vital consequence. We must and shall address ourselves to their solution with diligence, firmness and self-possession, notwithstanding we find ourselves in the midst of a world disturbed by great disaster and ablaze with terrible war; but our thought is now inevitably of new things about which formerly we gave ourselves little concern. We are thinking now chiefly of our relations with the rest of the world—not our commercial relations—about those we have thought and planned always—but about our political relations, our duties as an individual and independent force in the world to ourselves, our neighbors and the world itself.

NOT IMPERIALISTIC.

"Our principles are well known. It is not necessary to avow them again. We believe in political liberty and founded our great government to obtain it, the liberty of men and of peoples—of men to choose their own lives and of peoples to choose their own allegiance. Our ambition, also, all the world has knowledge of. It is not only to be free and prosperous ourselves, but also to be the friend and thoughtful partisan of those who are free or who desire freedom the world over. If we have had aggressive purpose and covetous ambitions, they were the fruit of our thoughtless youth as a nation and we have put them aside. We shall, I confidently believe, never again take another foot of territory by conquest. We shall never in any circumstances seek to make an independent people subject to our dominion; because we believe, we passionately believe, in the right of every people to choose their own allegiance and be free of masters altogether. For ourselves we wish nothing but the full liberty of self-development, and with ourselves in this great matter we associate all the peoples of our own hemisphere. We wish not only for the United States but for them the fullest freedom of independent growth and of action, for we know that throughout this hemisphere the same aspirations are everywhere being worked out, under diverse conditions but with the same impulse and ultimate object."

"All this is very clear to us and will, I confidently predict, become more and more clear to the whole world as the great processes of the future unfold themselves. It is with a full consciousness of such principles and such ambitions that we are asking ourselves at the present time what our duty is with regard to the armed force of the nation. Within a year we have witnessed what we did not believe possible, a great European conflict involving many of the greatest nations of the world. The influences of a great war are everywhere in the air. All Europe is embattled. Force everywhere speaks out with a loud and imperious voice in a titanic struggle of governments, and from one end of our own dear country to the other men are asking one another what our own force is, how far we are prepared to maintain ourselves against any interference with our national action or development."

"In no man's mind, I am sure, is there even raised the question of the wilful use of force on our part against any nation or any people. No matter what military or naval force the United States might develop, statesmen throughout the whole world might rest assured that we were gathering that force, not for attack in any quarter, not for aggression of any kind, not for the satisfaction of any political or international ambition, but merely to make sure of our own security. We have it in mind to be prepared, not for war, but only for defense, and with the thought constantly in our minds that the principles we hold most dear can be achieved by the slow processes of history only in the kindly and wholesome atmosphere of peace, and not by the use of hostile force. The mission of America in the world is essentially a mission of peace and goodwill among men. She has become the home and asylum of men of all creeds and races. Within her hospitable borders they have found homes and congenial associations and freedom and they have become part of the bone and sinew and spirit of America itself. America has been made up of the nations of the world and is the friend of the nations of the world."

"But we feel justified in preparing ourselves to vindicate our right to independent and unmolested action by making the force that is in us ready for assertion."

"And we know that we can do this in a way that will be itself an illustration of the American spirit. In accordance with our American traditions we want and shall work for only an army adequate to the constant and legitimate uses of times of international peace. But we do want to feel that there is a great body of citizens who have received at least the most rudimentary and necessary forms of military training; that they will be ready to form themselves into a fighting force at the call of the nation; and that the nation has the munitions and supplies with which to equip them without delay should it be necessary to call them into action. We wish to supply them with the training they need, and we think we can do so without calling them at any time too long away from their civilian pursuits."

"It is with this idea, with this conception, in mind that the plans have been made which it will be my privilege to lay before the Congress at its next session. That plan calls for only such an increase in the regular army of the United States as experience has proved to be required for the performance of the necessary duties of the army in the Philippines, in Hawaii, in Puerto Rico, upon the borders of the United States, at the coast fortifications, and at the military posts of the interior. For the rest, it calls for the training within the next three years of a force of 400,000 citizen soldiers to be raised in annual contingents of 133,000, who would be asked to enlist for three years with the colors and three years on furlough, but who during their three years of enlistment with the colors would not be organized as a standing force but would be expected merely to undergo intensive training for a very brief period each year. Their training would take place in immediate association with the organized units of the regular army. It would have no touch of the amateur about it, neither would it exact of the volunteers more than they could give in any one year from their civilian pursuits."

"And none of this would be done in such a way as in the slightest degree to supersede or subordinate our present serviceable and efficient National Guard. On the contrary, the National Guard itself would be used as part of the instrumentality by which training would be given the citizens who enlisted under the new conditions, and I should hope and expect that the

legislation by which all this would be accomplished would put the National Guard itself upon a better and more permanent footing than it has ever been before, giving it not only the recognition which it deserves, but a more definite support from the national government and a more definite conception with the military organization of the nation."

FORCES OF NATION A PART.

"What we all wish to accomplish is that the forces of the nation should indeed be part of the nation and not a separate professional force, and the chief cost of the system would not be in the enlistment or in the training of the men, but in the providing of ample equipment in case it should be necessary to call all forces into the field."

"Moreover, it has been American policy time out of mind to look to the navy as the first and chief line of defense. The navy of the United States is already a very great and efficient force. Not rapidly, but slowly, with careful attention, our naval force has been developed until the navy of the United States stands recognized as one of the most efficient and notable of the modern time."

"All that is needed in order to bring it to a point of extraordinary force and efficiency as compared with the other navies of the world is that we should hasten our pace in the policy we have long been pursuing, and that chief of all we should have a definite policy of development, not made from year to year, but looking well into the future and planning for a definite consummation. We can and should profit in all that we do by the experience and example that have been made obvious to us by the military and naval events of the actual present. It is not merely a matter of building battleships and cruisers and submarines, but also a matter of making sure that we shall have the adequate equipment of men and munitions and supplies for the vessels we build and intend to build. Part of our problem is the problem of what I may call the mobilization of the resources of the nation at the proper time if it should ever be necessary to mobilize them for na-

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(Signed) M. S. WITHERSPOON.
Lancaster, S. C., Oct. 22, 1915.

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